

Nurse Consultant Policy Statement

KEY POINTS

- ✓ **Nurse consultants should be a part of all initial AI/VI referrals for evaluation.**
- ✓ **Nurse consultants should be a part of district wide evaluations involving medically fragile students.**
- ✓ **Nurse consultants are not required to attend ARD/IEP meetings unless nursing services are likely to be provided.**

The Houston Independent School District serves over 16,000 students with disabilities. Many of these students have disabilities that are highly unique and medical in nature. The special education nurse consultant, in the Child Study Division of the Office of Special Education Services, is a position established to meet the evaluation needs of many of these students. The nurse consultant assists in the evaluation of students considered for, or currently served in special education that have rare or low incidence medical conditions. In cases where rare or low incidence medical conditions are identified the nurse consultant serves as a part of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to complete the special education evaluation. Commonly this team will include other members such as the evaluation specialist, licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP), and/or a speech and language pathologist (SLP).

As a part of the MDT process, the nurse consultant provides insight and clarification of the medical diagnosis, explanation of the prescribed medication(s), and serves as the liaison between the district and the medical community to secure any necessary disability condition forms or past medical evaluation reports. Following the completion of the evaluation, *the nurse consultant is not required to attend the ARD/IEP meeting unless medical orders will be implemented as part of the educational programming to ensure the safety of the student.*

High incidence medical conditions such as, but not limited to, Attention-Deficit- Hyperactivity-Disorder (ADHD), Attention-Deficit-Disorder (ADD), febrile seizures, mild asthma, cerebral palsy, mild orthopedic impairments, hypertonia, and common syndromes (e.g., Down's Syndrome) should be referred to the campus assigned evaluation specialist. Nurse consultants are not required to participate in these evaluations, unless nursing services are required during school hours.

However, MDTs evaluating students suspected of having auditory or vision impairments should always include the nurse consultant during the initial referral process. During evaluations of students suspected of having an auditory or vision impairment, the nurse consultant will obtain



Houston Independent School District
Office of Special Education Services
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092

the otological, and the eye (ophthalmological/optometrical) report. *In the case of an initial AI/VI evaluation, the nurse consultant is not required to attend the ARD.* The nurse consultant is not needed as a part of a reevaluation for students with auditory and/or visual impairments.

To request nurse consultant assistance, complete the secure Nurse Consultant Request Form located on the employee portal of the Office of Special Education's website. Click [here](#) to view the confidential form.



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